



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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CHAIR OF CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD COMPLETES SERVICE

On June 17, Anne Abernathy Wepner, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Social Service, presided over her last meeting of the Board. Appointed to the Board in July of 2002, she served for six years, two consecutive 3-year terms, which is the maximum amount of time that an individual can serve. Wepner has served as Chair of the Board since July of 2003.

A native of Newton, North Carolina, Wepner is an ordained pastor for the United Church of Christ with experience in pastoral counseling. She holds a doctorate in ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary. Wepner is an active member of the community and has served on a number of boards in addition to the Board of Social Services, including the Council For The Arts and the Green Room Community Theater. She is also a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program.

During her tenure on the board, she helped lead the organization through significant growth, as well as difficulties resulting from the economic downturn of the region. Also, in response to mental health reform, she supported the creation of Family N.E.T., a new division that provides therapeutic services to children and families.

As the adoptive mother of five children, Wepner applied her heartfelt understanding of the issue of adoption to help spearhead the first Heart Gallery of Catawba County. The Heart Gallery Exhibit featured portraits of children waiting for adoption, in an effort to capture the heart of a caring and loving family that would consider adopting a child.

"Anne Wepner has served the Board of Social Services well during the past six years." Bobby Boyd, Director of Social Services said, "She has a passion for people who are hurting, and an ability to show her empathy for those with pain. Her calm demeanor helped citizens better understand the organization and her leadership helped the board to function effectively. Her commitment to adoption and the well-being of children will last for a long time. It has been my pleasure to work with Anne."

Wepner was presented with a plaque of recognition for her public service and the Board adopted a resolution of appreciation in her honor at its June 17th meeting.

